



**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**National Park Service**

**[NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-NPS0033080; PPWOCRADN0-PCU00RP14.R50000]**

**Notice of Inventory Completion: Arizona Museum of Natural History, Mesa, AZ**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Arizona Museum of Natural History has completed an inventory of human remains and an associated funerary object, in consultation with the appropriate Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations, and has determined that there is a cultural affiliation between the human remains and associated funerary object and present-day Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations. Lineal descendants or representatives of any Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice that wish to request transfer of control of these human remains and associated funerary object should submit a written request to the Arizona Museum of Natural History. If no additional requestors come forward, transfer of control of the human remains and associated funerary object to the lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, or Native Hawaiian organizations stated in this notice may proceed.

**DATES:** Lineal descendants or representatives of any Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice that wish to request transfer of control of these human remains and associated funerary object should submit a written request with information in support of the request to the Arizona Museum of Natural History at the address in this notice by [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE **FEDERAL REGISTER**].

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Melanie Deer, Arizona Museum of Natural History, 53 N. MacDonald, Mesa, AZ 85201, telephone (480) 644-4381, email [melanie.deer@mesaaz.gov](mailto:melanie.deer@mesaaz.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is here given in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of the completion

of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary object under the control of the Arizona Museum of Natural History, Mesa, AZ. The human remains and associated funerary object are most likely from Maricopa County, AZ.

This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA, 25 U.S.C. 3003(d)(3). The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the museum, institution, or Federal agency that has control of the Native American human remains and associated funerary object. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

### **Consultation**

A detailed assessment of the human remains was made by the Arizona Museum of Natural History professional staff in consultation with representatives of the Gila River Indian Community of the Gila River Indian Reservation, Arizona and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community of the Salt River Reservation, Arizona.

### **History and description of the remains**

On December 26, 1985, human remains representing, at minimum, one individual were removed from an unknown location most likely in the area of Phoenix, Maricopa County, AZ. The human remains and a redware vessel were donated to the Arizona Museum of Natural History by Ray Thomas. The human remains belong to an individual of unidentified age and sex. No known individual was identified. The one associated funerary object is a redware vessel.

The style of the redware vessel indicates that it belongs to the Hohokam Material Culture. According to archeological understanding, the region from which these human remains were most likely collected was occupied by the Hohokam Material Culture in prehistoric times. In addition, according to archeological and ethnographic understandings, the Hohokam Material Culture group is ancestral to the Four Southern Tribes of Arizona (i.e., the Tohono O'odham Nation of Arizona; Gila River Indian Community of the Gila River Indian Reservation, Arizona; Salt River-Pima Maricopa Indian Community of the Salt River Reservation, Arizona; and the Ak-Chin Indian Community [previously listed as Ak Chin Indian Community of the Maricopa (Ak Chin) Indian Reservation, Arizona], as well as the Hopi Tribe of Arizona. The Four Southern

Tribes of Arizona divide their ancestral lands so that each tribe oversees those portions of land situated closest to their reservations.

### **Determinations made by the Arizona Museum of Natural History**

Officials of the Arizona Museum of Natural History have determined that:

- Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001(9), the human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of one individual of Native American ancestry.
- Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001(3)(A), the one object described in this notice is reasonably believed to have been placed with or near individual human remains at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony.
- Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001(2), there is a relationship of shared group identity that can be reasonably traced between the Native American human remains and the Ak-Chin Indian Community [previously listed as Ak Chin Indian Community of the Maricopa (Ak Chin) Indian Reservation, Arizona]; Gila River Indian Community of the Gila River Indian Reservation, Arizona; Hopi Tribe of Arizona; Salt River-Pima Maricopa Indian Community of the Salt River Reservation, Arizona; and the Tohono O’odham Nation of Arizona (hereafter referred to as “The Tribes”).

### **Additional Requestors and Disposition**

Lineal descendants or representatives of any Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice that wish to request transfer of control of these human remains and associated funerary object should submit a written request with information in support of the request to Melanie Deer, Arizona Museum of Natural History, 53 N. Macdonald, Mesa, AZ 85201, telephone (480) 644-4381, email [melanie.deer@mesaaz.gov](mailto:melanie.deer@mesaaz.gov), by [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE **FEDERAL REGISTER**]. After that date, if no additional requestors have come forward, transfer of control of the human remains to The Tribes may proceed.

The Arizona Museum of Natural History is responsible for notifying The Tribes that this notice has been published.

Dated: December 1, 2021.

**Melanie O'Brien,**

*Manager, National NAGPRA Program.*

[FR Doc. 2021-26780 Filed: 12/9/2021 8:45 am; Publication Date: 12/10/2021]